

SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

December 20, 1969

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL - CAS)
(To be delivered at start of business)

FOR: AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

Reference your 133. We are firmly knocking down the CBS story here in Washington. You should also know that the President has concluded that it would be very undesirable for you to leave your post during the potentially difficult Tet season, and hopes that you will reconsider your request with the view towards remaining in Saigon until late spring or early summer at least.

Please inform me through this channel of your views.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

State Dept. review completed

MORI/CDF
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TO THE WHITE HOUSE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY 200956Z DEC 69 VAI CAS CHANNELS
FM AND BUNKER, SAIGON 133
TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY HENRY A. KISSINGER
FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. CBS NEWS REPORT STATING I RECENTLY SUBMITTED LETTER OF RESIGNATION
AND PRESIDENT CONSIDERING APPOINTING REPLACEMENT EARLY NEXT YEAR
RECEIVING HEAVY PRESS ATTENTION HERE. MISSION RECEIVING MANY QUERIES,
INCLUDING ONE FROM CBS LOCAL CORRESPONDENT WHO WAS TOLD BY HIS HEAD-
QUARTERS THAT REPLACEMENT REPORT CAME FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

2. REPORTS OF THIS NATURE AT THIS TIME WILL BE RECEIVED BY VIETNAMESE
IN POLITICAL CONTEXT AND LIKELY BE INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF LESSENING
U.S. SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT THIEU. WHILE I AM NOT UNDULY CONCERNED
BY THIS, BELIEVE PROBLEM CREATED HERE BY REPORT MIGHT BE EFFECTIVELY
DEALT WITH BY SIMPLE STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN THAT
HE IS UNAWARE OF ANY BASIS FOR CBS SPECULATIVE STORY.

3. BEST WISHES.

C O N F I D E N T I A L EYES ONLY VIA CAS CHANNELS

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